

REMARKS

Claims 1– 10 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 – 7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 8 and 9 have been allowed.

New Formal Drawings

In paragraph 4 of the Office action, the Examiner has requested new formal drawings. Attached please find 8 sheets of formal drawings.

Rejections under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 – 7 and 10 have been rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2 – 7 have been rejected since there is insufficient basis for the “contiguous pairs of the plurality of lenses” language at claim 1, line 10. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the plurality of lenses are “linearly arranged in separate groups, each group including a contiguous pair of lenses.” Support for this change is shown in Fig. 1 and described at page 6, lines 16-18. As amended, claim 1 now provides sufficient basis for the “contiguous pairs of the plurality of lenses” language.

Claim 1 has also been rejected since there is insufficient basis for the “destination lens” language anywhere in claim 1. In claim 1 the “destination lens” language has been changed to “first lens.”

As amended independent claim 1 should now be definite and allowable under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Moreover, claims 2 – 7 which depend from now allowable claim 1 should now also be allowable under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Dependent claim 3 has been rejected because of insufficient basis for the phrase “apparatus input beam” (at line 3) and “apparatus output beam” (at line 4). Claim 3 basically recites that the invention of claim 1 can operate when the “input” and “output” signals of claim 1 are reversed. To more clearly recite this aspect of the invention, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form incorporating the basic language of claim 1 with the input and output beams (and input and output facility language) reversed. Support for this claim is found on page 3, lines 28 to 31. No new matter has been added by this amendment. As amended claim 3 should now be definite and allowable under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claim 7 has been rejected as indefinite because of the use of the phrase “separation P between contiguous pairs” (at line 3) and the use of “crosstalk requirements” (at line 6). Claim 7 has been amended to more clearly recite a “separation pitch P” as “being the separation between two microlenses located in adjacent contiguous pairs.” Support for this change is found in Fig. 4 and the description at page 7, lines 6-8. No new matter has been added by this change to claim 7.

The indefinite phrase related to “crosstalk requirements” has been deleted from claim 7. As amended claim 7 should now be definite and allowable under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Claim 10 has been rejected because of insufficient basis for the phrase “contiguous pairs of the plurality of output optical waveguides” (at line 10). Claim 10, at lines 4 - 6, has been amended to recite “output optical waveguides, pairs of the output optical waveguides being contiguous, each contiguous pair of output optical waveguides separated by a predetermine gap.” As amended, claim 10 should now provide sufficient basis for the phrase “contiguous pairs” and should now be allowable under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8 and 9 have been deemed allowable by Examiner.

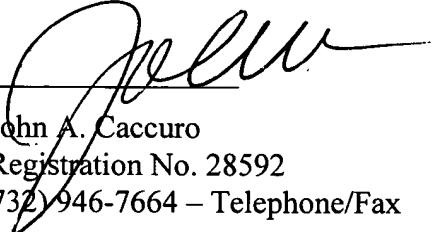
In summary for the above reasons, all of the claims 1 – 10 should now be allowable under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraph, and the same is respectfully requested.

If Examiner has any questions regarding this response, applicant's attorney would welcome a call from the Examiner to discuss them.

Respectfully,

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By


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Att: Formal Drawings
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